Buy-back of commercial Barramundi Fishery Licences underway

Northern Territory commercial barramundi fishermen have until tomorrow to participate in the Henderson Government’s licence buy-back scheme.

Fisheries Minister, Kon Vatskalis, said key stakeholder groups are fully aware of the voluntary scheme with a number of the 24 licence holders expressing interest in the buy-back.

“This Government made a commitment to buy-back commercial barramundi fishery licences to benefit recreational anglers,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“This is about making fishing even better for Territorians and to ensure stocks remain healthy for future generations.

“Licence holders have until close of business tomorrow (Friday 28 November 2008) to put their offers on the table for consideration.”

Mr Vatskalis said a Barramundi Fishery Licence Buy-Back Committee has been formally appointed to negotiate the buy-back of commercial fishing licences.

It is expected the buy-back of three licences will be finalised early in 2009, with another three to be bought back over this term of Government bringing the total to six.

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